



County Borough of Reading

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1948

By

E. HUGHES., M.D., D.P.H.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948

INDEX

	Page		Page
Abattoirs, Public	44	Houses, Verminous	35
Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939	53	Housing Act, 1936	47
Aged and Infirm, Provision of Accommodation	54	Ice Cream	43
Ambulance Service	19	Immunisation against Diphtheria	18
Ante-Natal Clinics	12	Infant Consultation Centres ...	10
		Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates (Table of)	9
		Infant Mortality (Table of) ...	8
Bakehouses	44	Infant Welfare Clinics	10
Births, Birth-rates	6	Infectious Diseases	25, 37
Blind, Care of the	55	Infectious Diseases (Table of Notifications)	26
		Institutional Midwifery	15
Canal Boats	37		
Cesspool Emptying	52	Laundries... ..	40
Chest, Physician, Report of ...	28	Licensed Premises	37
Chief Sanitary Inspector, Report of	34	Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930	24
Child Guidance Clinic	65		
Common Lodging Houses	37	Marriages, Number of	6
Condemned Foodstuffs	44	Maternal Mortality Rate	9
Cowsheds	41	Maternity and Child Welfare	10
Cremation	52	Meals, Provision of School ...	70
		Meat Inspection	44
Dairies, Inspection of	41	Medical Inspection of School Children	62
Day Nurseries	11	Medical Inspection, Findings of : Cleanliness	68
Deaths, Causes of and Ages at ...	7	Dental Defects	66
Deaths, Death-rates	6	Ear, Nose and Throat defects	63
Deaths, Table of	7	Minor Ailments Clinics	64
Dental Inspection and Treatment	66	Nutrition	63
Diphtheria Immunisation	18	Visual Defects	66
Disinfestation	35	Medical Treatment : Child Guidance	65
Domestic Helps	20	Cleanliness	68
Domiciliary Midwifery	14	Defective Vision and Squint... ..	62
		Dental Treatment	66
Expectant mothers and young children, Dental care of	11	Minor Ailments	64
		Nutrition	63
Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 ...	39	Refraction Clinic	66
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	40, 46	Specialist Clinics	64
Food, Inspection and Supervision	40	Special Therapy Clinic	65
Food, Unsound, Destroyed	44	Mental Deficiency	21
		Mental Welfare	21
Gas-Air Analgesia	14	Midwifery	14
		Milk and Dairies Orders	41
Health Centres	10	Milk in Schools	43
Health Committee	4	Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-1946	41
Health Visiting	15	Milk (Tuberculous)	43
Health Visiting Summary	16	Minor Ailments Clinic	64
Home Helps	20	Mothers and Young Children, Care of	10
Home Nursing	16	Movable Dwellings	37
House Refuse, Collection and Disposal	50	Municipal Midwives	14

INDEX

	Page		Page
National Assistance Act, 1948 ...	54	Refraction Clinic	66
Section 21—		Refuse Disposal	51
Provision of Accommodation		Reading Education Committee	60
for Aged and Infirm ...	54	Ringworm of the Body ...	69
Section 29—		Ringworm of the Scalp ...	69
Welfare of Handicapped		Rodent Control	48
Persons—Blind Persons	54		
National Health Service Act,		Salvage Collection	50
1946	10-24	Sanitary Circumstances of the	
Section		Area	29
21—Provision of Health Centres	10	Sanitary Inspection of the Area	34
22—Care of Mothers and Young		Scarlet Fever	27
Children	10	School Dental Service	66
23—Midwifery	14	School Meals	70
24—Health Visiting	15	School Milk	43
25—Home Nursing	16	School Population	61
26—Vaccination and Immun-		Sewage Disposal	50
isation	18	Sewers and Drains	35
27—Ambulance Service ...	19	Shops Act, 1934	46
28—Prevention of Illness, Care		Slaughterhouses	44
and After-Care ...	20	Sludge	50
29—Provision of Domestic		Smoke Nuisances	36
Helps	20	Specialist Clinics	64
50 & 51—Mental Welfare ...	21	Special Therapy Clinic	65
National Society for the Preven-		Speech Therapy	65
tion of Cruelty to Children ...	13	Statistical Summary	6
Nuisances... ..	35	Steam Fly and Cockroaches	36
Nursing Equipment and Appara-		Street Cleansing	51, 52
tus, Provision of	20		
Nursing Homes	53	Tuberculosis Death-rate ...	6
Nursery and Child Minders Act,		Tuberculosis Dispensary After-	
1948	53	Care Association	20
Nutrition	63	Tuberculosis Records	27
		Tuberculosis Table of Notifi-	
Occupation Centre	22	cation	27
Offensive and Allied Trades ...	36		
Ophthalmic Surgeon, Report of	57	Unmarried Mothers and their	
Outworkers	39	Children, Care of	13
Park Hospital	25	Vaccination	18
Population	6	Venereal Diseases	29
Post-Natal Clinics	12	Verminous Condition	68
Premature Infants, Care of ...	11	Vital Statistics	6
Prevalence and Control of In-			
fectious diseases	25	Water Supply	29
Prevention of Illness, Care and		Welfare of the Blind	54
After-Care	20	Women's Advisory Clinic ...	13
Provision of Nursing Equipment			
and Apparatus	20		
Public Health Act, 1936	35		
Public Health Laboratory			
Service	53		
Reading Association for the			
Welfare of the Blind	54		

HEALTH COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman H. V. Kersley, J.P.)

Aldermen

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK (<i>Chairman</i>)	ALICE JENKINS, J.P.
ALFRED LOVELL	WILLIAM MATHIAS NEWHAM
THOMAS STEPHEN	WILLIAM SMART

Councillors

MARY KATHARINE LOGAN DAHNE	PERCIVAL WALTER LORD
ERNEST DORRELL	LILIAN MARY MILLER
HAROLD DEREK JOSLING	WILLIAM FREDERICK PETTIT
ELEANOR LANGSTON (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)	BERTHA ALICE MAY SMITH, J.P.
FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS	SYDNEY HERBERT WING
REGINALD KENT STANLEY LONDON	JOHN STANLEY WOODROW

Non-Members of the Council

GEORGE ROSS	ROBERT GERRETT REID, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.
FRANCIS ERIC WHEELER, M.B.E., F.R.C.S.	BRIAN RUSSELL MOORE, L.D.S., R.C.S.
WILLIAM IVOR BAIN, M.A., M.B.	WILLIAM LELEAN PULLEN, M.P.S.
NANCY A. SHARP	

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, READING,

September, 1949.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1948, although the work referred to was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Wright who left to take up his duties as Medical Officer of Health of Croydon on October 1st, and subsequently of Dr. Robson.

The vital statistics are fairly satisfactory but figures can never give a complete presentation of the state of the health of a town.

The major part of the work of the department revolved round the changes which took place on July 5th, a date which will always be significant in English social legislation. On the whole the change over took place smoothly and as there was abundant good will on all sides there was no obvious hiatus so far as the patients were concerned.

There is undoubtedly much more to be done to improve these services which we now administer and to adjust certain points of administrative detail and attention continues to be given to these matters.

It remains to be seen whether the allocation of responsibility for the care of the sick in hospitals and in their homes to different bodies will prove beneficial.

One of the unfortunate results of the National Health Service Act has been the rapid disintegration of the Local Authorities' Dental Services; at the moment it seems unlikely that they will ever be restored to their former state. Nor does there seem any doubt that the glamour of curative medicine has eclipsed the steady and unspectacular flame of preventive medicine and the future supply of medical personnel through whom Local Authorities can carry out their functions appears to be dwindling rapidly.

There is little to report on matters arising from the National Assistance Act, since the remaining months of the year were taken up in the formulation of schemes for submission to the Ministry of Health. But there seems no doubt that, in view of the medical background to the welfare of aged and infirm people and of handicapped persons, it will be advantageous that duties of the Local Authority under this Act will be administered through the Health Committee.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. HUGHES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area (acres)	9,106
Population (estimated mid-1948)	114,500
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ...	29,638
Rateable Value	£1,037,718
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£4,233

Total cost of services administered by the Health Committee and the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Education Committee for the year ended 31st March, 1948—

Expenditure	£301,587
Income	£70,722

				Birth-rate
	Total	Males	Females	per 1,000 population
Live Births	2,048	1,041	1,007	17.88
Legitimate	1,895	967	928	16.55
Illegitimate	153	74	79	1.33

Infant deaths under one year—

Legitimate	61
Illegitimate	10
Total	71

Death-rate of infants under one year per 1,000 births—

Legitimate	32.19
Illegitimate	65.36
Total	33.82
Number of still-births	52
Rate per 1,000 births	24.76
Deaths of infants under one month	45
Neo-natal mortality rate	21.42
Deaths—net	1,311
Rate per 1,000 population	11.45
Number of marriages	1,105

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth—

From sepsis	2
From other causes	2
Total	4
Maternal mortality rate	1.9
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	228
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	7

Tuberculosis death-rate (per 1,000 of population)—

Pulmonary ... ..	.43
Non-Pulmonary ... ..	.10
All forms ... ..	.54

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	25	20	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	50	...	3	6	1	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases	12	...	...	1	...	1	...
Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer (all forms)	228	...	1	2	13	95	117
Diabetes	7	...	...	...	1	2	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage	148	1	...	...	1	32	114
Heart Disease	417	...	...	...	8	73	336
Other circulatory Diseases	56	...	...	...	...	7	49
Bronchitis	30	1	...	...	...	3	26
Pneumonia (all forms)	49	8	1	...	3	7	30
Other Respiratory Diseases	14	...	1	...	2	5	6
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	6	...	...	...	...	3	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	7	7	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
Other Digestive Diseases	29	1	...	2	2	9	15
Nephritis	30	...	...	...	2	10	18
Puerperal Sepsis	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other Maternal Causes	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
Premature Birth	22	22	...	...	2	...	...
Congenital Debility, Malformations, etc.	26	25	...	1	...	...	...
Suicide	14	...	...	...	3	10	1
Road Accidents	12	...	2	1	5	2	2
Other Violent Causes	31	2	2	1	3	5	18
All Other Causes	107	2	2	1	8	15	79
Totals	1311	71	15	10	89	302	824

INFANT MORTALITY, 1948

(CAUSES OF DEATH under one year)										
Causes of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 month and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis, not Tuberculous ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	1	—	2	3	2	1	—	7
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	6
Other Digestive Diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc. ...	34	1	4	1	40	4	1	2	2	49
Other Causes ...	1	—	1	1	3	1	1	2	—	7
Totals	36	1	6	2	45	9	8	7	3	72

7 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.

SUMMARY OF INFANT AND MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES SINCE 1900

Year	Population	No. of Births	Birth-rate per 1,000 Living	No. of Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality	Maternal Mortality			Total No. of Deaths	Death-rate per 1,000 Living
						Sepsis	Others	Rate per 1,000 Births		
1900	71,225	1,888	26.51	272	144.1	—	—	—	1,032	14.49
1901	72,551	1,967	27.11	261	132.7	3	3	3.05	1,054	14.53
1902	73,901	1,896	25.66	227	119.7	2	—	1.09	1,003	13.57
1903	75,277	2,031	26.98	246	121.1	3	2	2.46	973	12.92
1904	76,678	1,994	26.00	262	131.4	2	5	3.59	1,065	13.89
1905	78,105	1,986	25.43	236	118.8	3	4	3.6	1,022	13.08
1906	79,559	1,882	23.66	217	115.3	4	6	5.3	1,016	12.77
1907	81,040	1,806	22.28	164	90.8	4	8	6.6	983	12.13
1908	82,549	1,847	22.37	182	98.5	1	4	2.7	963	11.66
1909	84,085	1,744	20.74	166	95.2	4	4	4.6	962	11.44
1910	84,355	1,673	19.83	126	75.3	3	4	4.2	844	10.00
1911	87,693	1,605	21.32	164	102.2	5	3	4.9	911	12.10
1912	88,603	1,896	21.40	160	84.4	3	3	3.2	1,015	11.45
1913	89,339	1,871	20.94	150	80.2	4	4	4.3	1,035	11.58
1914	90,083	1,819	20.19	161	88.5	1	6	3.9	1,082	12.01
1915	86,299	1,792	19.89	147	82.0	3	3	3.4	1,199	13.89
1916	92,563	1,794	19.38	145	80.8	4	—	2.2	1,230	14.46
1917	91,936	1,420	15.44	140	98.6	3	4	4.9	1,172	14.21
1918	92,320	1,582	17.14	115	72.7	3	4	4.4	1,317	15.98
1919	95,175	1,593	16.7	109	68.4	1	3	2.5	1,091	11.9
1920	95,387	2,278	24.8	152	66.7	4	7	3.9	1,016	11.04
1921	92,274	1,892	20.4	114	60.2	—	1	0.5	1,069	10.7
1922	92,990	1,729	18.5	109	63.04	—	2	1.16	1,135	12.2
1923	93,160	1,705	18.3	88	51.6	3	8	6.4	1,036	11.12
1924	93,680	1,603	17.1	86	53.6	—	5	3.1	1,006	10.7
1925	93,910	1,509	16.07	85	56.3	2	5	4.6	1,042	11.12
1926	93,290	1,642	17.6	83	50.5	4	1	3.0	1,139	12.2
1927	94,890	1,456	15.3	62	42.5	1	2	2.0	1,165	12.3
1928	97,190	1,489	15.48	80	53.6	4	6	6.7	1,147	11.9
1929	97,050	1,446	14.9	75	50.5	1	3	2.8	1,373	14.1
1930	97,050	1,404	14.4	77	54.8	—	3	2.1	1,114	11.4
1931	97,149	1,477	15.1	66	44.6	1	3	2.7	1,169	12.0
1932	97,636	1,396	14.3	77	55.2	1	5	4.29	1,253	12.8
1933	98,950	1,380	13.9	87	63.0	1	4	2.9	1,370	13.6
1934	99,250	1,414	14.25	58	41.02	3	1	2.8	1,183	11.9
1935	99,600	1,475	14.8	76	51.5	2	1	1.9	1,230	12.3
1936	100,000	1,436	14.3	73	51.0	1	2	2.1	1,275	12.8
1937	100,200	1,581	15.8	79	49.7	—	3	1.8	1,306	13.0
1938	100,400	1,582	15.7	60	39.9	1	6	4.4	1,259	12.5
1939	100,600	1,564	15.5	79	50.5	1	5	3.9	1,327	13.2
1940	114,600	1,725	15.0	88	51.0	—	1	0.5	1,606	14.1
1941	124,800	1,913	15.3	113	59.0	2	5	3.7	1,532	12.2
1942	117,800	1,833	15.5	70	38.2	1	1	1.1	1,298	11.0
1943	113,000	1,925	17.03	83	43.1	1	4	2.6	1,385	12.2
1944	111,340	2,139	19.2	87	40.7	—	4	1.8	1,311	12.0
1945	108,830	2,066	18.8	98	47.4	1	3	1.9	1,400	12.8
1946	111,340	2,226	20.0	98	44.0	—	2	0.89	1,382	12.4
1947	112,960	2,533	22.4	89	35.1	—	2	0.77	1,395	12.3
1948	114,500	2,100	17.88	71	34.6	2	2	1.9	1,311	11.45

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF HEALTH CENTRES

No action has been taken in respect of the provision of Health Centres under the above section.

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Infant Welfare Clinics. There are eight Infant Welfare Clinics which have a total of twelve sessions per week.

The medical staff comprises two general practitioners (part-time) and two assistant medical officers (whole-time). The following gives a summary of the attendances at the clinics during 1948.

Centre	No. of Sessions	New Attendances		Re-attendances	Average Attendances
		Under 1 year of age	Over 1 year of age		
Star Lane, London Street, Reading—					
Wednesday	52	194	14	4,994	100
Friday	52	123	6	2,914	58
Elm Park Hall, Oxford Rd., Reading—					
Tuesday Morning	51	128	5	3,726	75
Tuesday Afternoon	51	163	22	5,462	110
*Thursday Afternoon	17	46	2	1,076	66
Park Institute, Wokingham Road, Reading—					
Monday	49	109	19	4,510	95
Friday	51	153	22	4,980	101
West Memorial Institute, Caversham					
*Tuesday	16	21	—	527	34
Thursday... ..	53	143	31	5,327	104
Tilehurst Village Hall, Tilehurst ...	48	61	19	2,515	54
Whitley Clinics—					
Wednesday	52	149	29	4,195	84
Friday	51	114	26	3,473	71
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford Road ...	49	92	11	2,663	56
Shinfield, Tyndale Free Church ...	53	91	10	2,770	54
Totals	645	1,587	216	49,132	79

*Commenced September, 1948

Day Nurseries. There are two day nurseries in the town which provide accommodation for ninety children up to the age of five years.

The accommodation has been used to capacity and there are waiting lists at each nursery. At the moment the nurseries are housed in large private houses which were utilised for the purpose during the war.

It is hoped to provide improved and more permanent premises later on.

There has been nothing special to report in connection with the administration of these nurseries during the year.

Daily average attendance for each month of the year, 1948. 0-5 years (Monday to Friday)—

Nursery	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Holybrook House ...	27	30	27	28	30	36	35	38	35	35	36	35	392
Victoria Square ...	49	*38	42	47	40	44	44	47	49	43	45	45	533
	76	68	69	75	70	80	79	85	84	78	81	80	925

*15 cases of Chicken-pox

The following details relate to the position as at 31st December, 1948—

No. of Approved Places		No. of children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance since 5th July, 1948	
0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5	0-2	2-5
40	50	37	57	33	50

Care of Premature Infants. The existing arrangements continued throughout the year, although it is hoped shortly to make an appointment of a special nurse to deal with premature babies.

Dental Care of Expectant Mothers and Young Children. This work is carried out by the school dental officers, but owing to decrease of staff there has been curtailment instead of expansion of the service.

The following table gives the details of the work carried out during the year :—

	Pre-school Children	Mothers
Inspected	210	228
Actually treated ...	210	228
Attendances	420	706
Extractions	347	673
Fillings	122	158
General anaesthetics	103	128
Dentures	—	29
Treatment completed	160	108

The following table gives details of the work done since July 5th, as required by the Ministry of Health :—

	Pre-school Children	Ante-natal Cases	Post-natal Cases
Inspected	110	138	14
Actually treated ...	110	138	14
Attendances	188	336	40
Extractions	152	238	81
Fillings	61	67	9
General anaesthetics	44	51	10
Dentures	—	25	—
Treatment completed	86	71	7

It has not been possible to inaugurate any scheme of dental education.

Ante-Natal Clinics. There are two municipal ante-natal clinics with a total of four sessions per week. In addition, a number of expectant mothers who reside in the western end of the town attend the ante-natal clinic which is held at Battle Hospital. The Queen Victoria Institute hold one ante-natal clinic per week using one of the municipal clinic premises.

Post-Natal Clinics. There are no special sessions for post-natal work ; this work is carried out at the end of the ante-natal sessions under the arrangements outlined above.

The following is a record of the number of mothers attending ante-natal and post-natal clinics, and the total number of attendances made during the year :—

Clinic	Number of sessions held	New patients	Re-attendances	Post-natal
Star Lane	156	553	3,053	210
Whitley	95	295	1,395	43
Queen Victoria Institute	101	201	959	135

On July 5th, Dellwood and The Grove Maternity Homes were taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, although the ante-natal supervision of certain patients booked for these two maternity homes continued to be carried out at the municipal clinics.

In addition supervision was given to certain expectant mothers who were due to be confined at Battle Hospital.

Women's Advisory Clinic. This clinic is organised by a voluntary association who use the Star Lane Clinic premises. Sessions are held twice a month.

Total number of new attendances	...	280
Total attendances	... ..	1,379

Since the clinic was first instituted, 1,889 women have attended for advice.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and their Children. This work continues to be carried out in co-operation with the Bradfield and Reading Association for Moral Welfare. During the year, the Corporation accepted responsibility for eight unmarried mothers.

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Mr. Tilley reports as follows :—" Cases dealt with, 296, these were classified as follows :—Neglect, 150 ; Advice Sought, 122 ; Ill-treatment, 23 ; Moral Danger, 1. They involved the welfare of 644 children. 1,510 supervision visits were made in connection with cases, and in addition 1,950 miscellaneous visits were made. 16 cases were prosecuted, and 16 were dealt with in the Juvenile Court."

SECTION 23—MIDWIFERY

The arrangements whereby the Corporation employs five municipal midwives directly and six midwives by an agency agreement with the Queen Victoria Institute has continued throughout the year and has worked satisfactorily.

By the end of the year all these midwives had been trained to administer gas and air analgesia and the supply of machines was adequate.

The trend of midwifery practice in Reading is shown by the following table :—

Year	Total Confinements	Domiciliary Confinements	Percentage of Total
1938	1,552	1,000	64.4
1939	1,564	897	57.7
1940	1,725	931	54.0
1941	1,913	931	49.0
1942	1,833	858	46.8
1943	1,925	907	47.0
1944	2,139	925	43.2
1945	2,066	806	39.0
1946	2,226	791	35.5
1947	2,250	765	34.0
1948	2,100	645	30.7

The following table gives details of the work carried out by these midwives :—

Municipal midwives—

Number of cases attended as midwives	...	...	...	263
No. of cases attended as maternity nurse	...	...	...	29
Number of patients to whom analgesia was given	...	...	...	208

Q.V.I. midwives—

Number of cases attended as midwives	...	...	...	287
Number of cases attended as maternity nurse	...	...	...	66
Number of patients to whom analgesia was given	...	...	...	147

Number of cases in which medical aid was sought—

Domiciliary cases	...	...	...	...	...	214
Institutional cases	...	...	...	...	...	314

Nursing Homes—

Number of patients attended as midwives	...	...	80
Number of patients attended as maternity nurse	...	...	431

There are no midwives who undertake private domiciliary midwifery practice in the town.

Institutional Midwifery. On July 5th, Dellwood and Grove Maternity Homes were transferred to the Oxford Regional Board, but the following records of institutional midwifery may be of interest :—

<i>Dellwood—</i>	During 1/1/48- the year 4/7/48	
Number of patients delivered by midwives	459	279
Number of patients delivered by doctors ...	28	16
Number of cases in which medical aid was sought by midwives in cases of emergency	80	42
Number of infants wholly breast-fed ...	444	274
Maternal deaths	—	—

<i>Grove—</i>		
Number of patients delivered by midwives	388	181
Number of patients delivered by doctors ...	—	—
Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwife in cases of emergency... ..	80	41
Number of infants wholly breast-fed ...	354	170
Maternal deaths	—	—

<i>Battle Hospital—</i>		
Number of patients delivered by midwives	453	296
Number of patients delivered by doctors ...	37	20
Number of infants wholly breast-fed ...	434	281
Maternal deaths	1	1

<i>Royal Berkshire Hospital—</i>		
Number of cases delivered by doctors ...	302	148
Maternal deaths	—	—

SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

Unfortunately it has not been practicable to amalgamate the Health Visiting Service with the School Health Service, but this will be done gradually as vacancies occur in the latter service.

The Superintendent Health Visitor also acts as Inspector of Midwives. It has not been possible to recruit the full complement of health visitors. In addition there are two visitors who are occupied solely in tuberculosis work.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the health visiting staff during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	1,905
Visits to children aged 1 to 5 years ...	15,091
Re-visits to children under 1 year ...	9,458
Special visits	488
Visits to expectant mothers	916
Special visits to cases of measles ...	85
„ „ to cases of ophthalmia ...	6
„ „ in regard to still-births ...	40
„ „ in regard to infant deaths	39
„ „ to nursed-out children ...	149
„ „ to cases of whooping cough	49
„ „ in regard to diphtheria	
immunisation ...	916
Total	<hr/> 29,142 <hr/>

In addition to the above, the following visits were paid by the Superintendent Health Visitor :—

Visits to midwives	45
„ „ home helps	56
District supervision of nursings ...	5
Visits to Nursing Homes	34
„ „ Hospitals	18
„ under Regulation 33B	2
„ to Probation Officer	10
Miscellaneous visits	15

SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

Prior to July 5th, Home Nursing was carried out by the Reading Queen Victoria Institute of District Nursing ; since July 5th this body has been acting as the agent of the Local Health Authority in carrying out duties under Section 25.

There is one central home and three district homes (Tilehurst, Shinfield and Caversham). The new arrangement has worked well and the main matter which calls for comment is the difficulty in obtaining the full complement of staff.

The Institute is also a Training School for District Nurses.

The following table gives a summary of the work for 1948 :—

Report for the year of 1948 (January 1st-December 31st)—

Number of cases on books on first day of the year	...	...	...	...	293
Number of new cases nursed during the year	...	...	...	...	2,142
Referred by—					
Patient's family doctor			...	...	1,580
Hospital	...	...	...	...	107
Patient's application	...	...	...	...	455
Classification of new cases—					
Medical	...	...	...	...	1,665
Surgical	...	...	...	...	477
Total number of general nursing visits paid during the year	...	...	...	...	100,331
Classification of discharges—					
Convalescent	...	...	...	...	907
Transferred to Hospital	...	...	...	...	273
Died	...	...	...	...	318
Relieved	...	...	...	...	645
Number of cases on the books on the last day of the year	...	...	...	...	370

The following table gives a summary of the work done since July 5th :—

(1)	Number of Home Nurses Employed at 31st Dec., 1948		Equivalent of Whole-Time Services Devoted by Home Nurses included in cols. (2) and (3) to Home Nursing	Number of Visits Paid by Home Nurses included in cols. (2) and (3) during the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st Dec., 1948	Number of Cases Attended by Home Nurses included in cols. (2) and (3) during the period 5th July, 1948 to 31st Dec., 1948
	Whole-Time on Home Nursing	Part-Time on Home Nursing			
(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Local Health Authority ...	—	—	—	—	—
Voluntary Organisations by Agreement with the Authority ...	Admin. 3 Queen's 9 Candidates 10	3	.	48,037	1,420

SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out by medical officers of the Local Health Authority at special sessions and an opportunity has been given to all general practitioners in the area to participate in the scheme as approved by the Minister.

The following table gives the position as at December 31st, 1948 :—

Age at 31/12/47 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-1943	10-14 1934-1938	Total under 15
Number Immunised	97	1,447	1,361	1,270	1,178	5,427	6,616	17,396
Estimated mid-year Population 1947		9,337 =57.33 per cent immunised				15,485 =77.87 per cent immunised		

Since the repeal of the Vaccination Acts, vaccination is performed under the Authority's scheme by whole-time medical officers ; an opportunity has been given to all general practitioners to participate in the scheme.

For the period 1/1/48 to 4/7/48 there were 451 vaccinations.

The following table gives the position for the period 5th July, to 31st December, 1948 :—

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED (or re-vaccinated) DURING PERIOD

Age at 31st Dec., 1948, i.e. born in years	Under 1 1948	1 to 4 1944 to 1947	5 to 14 1934 to 1943	15 or over Before 1934	Total
Number Vaccinated	122	13	3	10	148
Number Re-vaccinated	1	2	5	34	42

SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The bulk of the work in connection with the ambulance service is carried out from the Corporation's Ambulance Depot, under the supervision of the Transport Manager. At the end of the year there were five vehicles in this branch of the service, plus one ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital. The St. John Ambulance Brigade provide one ambulance by which they carry out certain duties as agents of the Corporation. The British Red Cross Society also undertake certain ambulance journeys at the request of the Corporation. This service ranks as a supplementary ambulance service.

The hospital car service is an integral part of the ambulance service and is operated by a combined organisation of the British Red Cross Society, St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Women's Voluntary Service. By the end of the year there were 48 drivers available for this work.

No suitable case presented itself during the year for transport by means of the British Railways train ambulance service, although it must be reported that this service has been used on occasions very satisfactorily during 1949.

The following table gives a summary of the work done between July 5th and December 31st, 1948 :—

	No of vehicles at 31/12/48	Total No. of calls from 5/7/48 to 31/12/48	Total No. of patients carried during the period	No. of accidents and emergency calls	Total mileage
Directly provided by the Authority	Ambulances 5 Cars —	2,708	2,739	322	23,978
Agency Services	Ambulances 1 Cars —	292	973	5	5,057
Supplementary Services	Ambulances 1 Cars 48	29 —	30 1,942	— —	2,594 26,131

SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis. The Reading Tuberculosis Care Association acts as the agent of the Local Health Authority in this work ; the Council gives financial assistance on an approved estimate submitted by the Care Association ; in point of fact by far the major part of the Association's work is wholly financed by the Local Health Authority.

The field of work covered by the Association includes occupational therapy for suitable cases, provision of free milk, maintenance of patients at training centres and general advice on the many problems which beset the tuberculous patient.

The following is a summary of applications considered :—

Milk—

New applications	...	...	...	8
Renewal of grants	...	...	...	47
Grants discontinued	...	...	...	31
Application refused	...	...	...	1
Applications withdrawn by patients				7

Home Help—

New Applications	...	...	...	2
Renewal of home help	...	...	...	1
Discontinued	...	...	...	2
Supply of bedding	...	...	...	1
Supply of clothing	...	...	...	2
Payment of patients' hire-purchase debts				1
Payment of patients' Court costs			...	1
Provision of wireless accessories			...	1
Provision of rail fares to patient			...	1
Maintenance of patients in training centre				3

Provision of Nursing Equipment and Apparatus.

Patients who were being attended by the Queen's Nurses were supplied with nursing requisites on loan, but no definite scheme for the Borough as a whole had been developed by the end of the year.

SECTION 29—PROVISION OF DOMESTIC HELPS

Prior to July 5th, Home Helps for maternity cases were provided by a service operated directly by the Medical Officer of Health's Department, while Helps for other conditions were provided by the Women's Voluntary Service.

After July 5th both these types of service were operated on an agency basis by the Women's Voluntary Service.

The following table gives a summary of the service on December 31st—

Number of domestic helps employed—				
Whole-time	...	...	...	5
Part-time	...	...	...	76
Number of homes to which Domestic				
Helps were supplied between July				
5th and December 31st, 1948	...			348

SECTIONS 50 and 51—MENTAL WELFARE

The Mental Welfare services are administered by a Mental Health Sub-Committee which meets monthly.

At the end of the year there was one authorised officer (with appropriate relief), one mental deficiency visitor, one supervisor of the occupation centre with appropriate assistants. The Medical Officer of Health and his deputy act as medical officers for this work.

So far there are no joint appointments with the Regional Hospital Board, although it is hoped that there will be a joint appointment of psychiatric social worker.

The Borough Mental Deficiency officer has undertaken duties of supervision and the furnishing of reports to hospitals and other local health authorities. No duties have been delegated to voluntary associations.

So far no arrangements have been initiated for the training of Mental Health workers who will subsequently become members of the staff of the department.

I am indebted to Miss D. Collins for the following report :—

“ The chief difficulty is still the continued shortage of accommodation for cases urgently in need of Institutional care.

Number of Mental Defectives ascertained to be 'subject to be dealt with' at 31st December, 1948—

	M.	F.	Total
In an Institution—Borocourt, 91 ; Brentry Colony, Bristol, 8 ; Royal Earlswood, Surrey, 1 ; St. Mary's, Alton, 1 ; Wayland House, Berks, 1 ; Botley's Park, Surrey, 4	48	58	106
On Licence from Institution—Employed away from home, 9 ; employed living at home, 3 ; in hospital, 1 ; at home not employed, 2	5	10	15
Under Guardianship—Maintained by this Authority, 27 ; in employment, 2 ; employed on licence from guardianship, 1	14	16	30
Under Statutory supervision	84	64	148
Of whom there were 'awaiting removal to Institution'	6	7	13
Number in 'place of safety'	1	—	1
Number in State Institutions	6	2	8
Number of cases granted licence from Institutions during 1948	2	5	7
Number of cases on Licence from Guardianship ...	2	1	3
Number of cases returned from Licence to Institutions during 1948	2	3	5
Number of cases who have died during 1948 ...	5	1	6
Number of cases who have left the district during 1948	1	3	4
Discharged during 1948	1	1	2

Number of Cases ascertained during 1948 :—

	M.	F.	Total
Adults	4	7	11
Children	3	4	7
Not at present 'Subject to be dealt with' but for whom the local authority may subsequently become liable	55	40	95
Of whom 'under friendly supervision'	50	36	86
Number of cases on Licence or guardianship supervised on behalf of other authorities	—	1	1"

Occupation Centre. Miss Barkas, the Supervisor, reports as follows :—" The classes have been held daily during the school terms from Mondays until Fridays.

Hours of attendance. Mondays, 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. ; Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ; Fridays, 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Numbers attending. The number of defectives on the register are as follows :—

From Borough—

Males		Females	
Full-time ...	23	Full-time ...	29
Part-time ...	7	Part-time ...	5
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	30		34

From County—

Full-time ...	1	Full-time ...	1
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	31		35
Total ...		66	

Home Teaching—1

Use of School Medical and Dental Service. We are indebted to the School Medical Officer also to the School Dentist for their visits of inspection during the year. Dental, Ophthalmic and other necessary treatments have been given to the defectives attending the Centre.

Transport. The two special buses have been in operation during the year. Collecting defectives from the following districts :—

- (a) Whitley Estate and Shinfield Road district
- (b) Oxford Road and Caversham Road.

Free bus tickets have been issued to defectives not requiring special escort.

Meals. By arrangement with the School Meals Service a mid-day meal has been served each day to defectives and to staff on duty. The parents of the defectives have contributed 5d. a day towards the total cost of 1/- per day. In cases of financial difficulties the meals have been given free.

Milk. Milk has been supplied to the children under the 'Milk for Schools Scheme.'

Curriculum. The defectives have been given instruction in needlework, knitting, rug making and other elementary crafts, also in certain domestic duties, e.g. scrubbing, washing-up crockery and polishing.

The boys have attended boot repairing, woodwork, cane-basketry and chair seating classes.

Physical training including singing and action songs have been taught daily.

Activities during the year. By kind permission of the Mental Welfare Committee a room at 'The Beeches' has been loaned to the Guild of the Braves (a Guild for crippled and other handicapped persons). The meetings have been held once monthly from 4-6 p.m. Ten of our defectives have been enrolled as members.

Students. The National Association for Mental Health has been able to send us two students during the year, and we were very pleased to have them working with us.

Open days. Two open days have been held during the year when parents and other people interested in the work have been invited.

In connection with the Open Day on December 14th, the defectives of all grades took part in a programme of physical activities held at the Denmark Hall.

Christmas Treat. This annual event was held at the Town Hall this year by the kind permission of the Mental Welfare Committee. An excellent tea was provided by the People's Pantry. This was followed by games, a Christmas tree and gifts and a short entertainment.

We were very pleased to have with us the Mayor and Mayoress and we appreciated very much their kindly interest in this work."

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930. Mr. House, Authorised Officer, reports as follows:—"During the period under review (5/7/48 to 31/12/48), 43 patients have been received in the mental hospital (Fair Mile Hospital, Wallingford) as voluntary patients under Section I, Mental Treatment Act, 1930. Under the Lunacy Act, 1890, 27 patients have been examined by Justices, certified and removed to the mental hospital. A further 5 patients have been examined, but no orders were made in these cases.

One patient has been removed to the mental hospital under Section 20 of the principal Act—the patient was subsequently transferred to the voluntary class.

Before initiating proceedings, all notified cases have been visited and, as a result, many patients have been persuaded to undergo treatment for mental illness, rendering certification unnecessary. Advice has been given to patients' relatives, and to some of the patients themselves upon discharge from the hospital."

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There was an increased incidence of measles during the early part of the year which was a continuation of the outbreak towards the end of 1947. It will be noticed that there was only one case of diphtheria during the year.

1948 can be regarded as a reasonably satisfactory year so far as infectious diseases are concerned, although special mention will be made of tuberculosis.

Details of immunisation against diphtheria have already been given on page 18 ; it is pleasing to record that this service continues to be popular and the results certainly justify any expense and trouble involved.

Park Hospital. The following are the figures of the patients treated during 1948.

The total number of patients admitted during the year was 285 which together with 22 patients remaining in the hospital on 1st January, 1948, made a total of 307 treated during the year.

Details are as follows :—

Disease	Remaining in hospital, 1 Jan., 1948	Since admitted	Since discharged	Died in hospital	Remaining in hospital, 31 Dec., 1948
Scarlet Fever ...	2	52	51	—	3
Diphtheria ...	—	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid " B "	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ...	20	157	152	5	20
Other Diseases ...	—	75	70	2	3
Totals	22	285	274	7	26

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1948, CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS

Notifiable diseases	Number of cases notified										Notified cases removed to Isolation Hospital	Total deaths in Isolation Hospital
	Age groups											
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	140	1	5	13	62	42	7	8	2	—	52	—
Whooping Cough ...	128	14	37	37	36	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Measles (excluding rubella) ...	843	25	180	248	373	12	3	2	—	—	—	—
Acute pneumonia (primary or influenzal) ...	20	—	—	—	—	2	4	7	3	4	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	4	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	25	4	—	—	—	—	7	18	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever (excluding paratyphoid) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	132	—	1	—	1	2	42	55	27	3	157	—
Tuberculosis, other forms ...	24	—	3	1	2	3	5	6	4	—	—	5
Totals	1333	44	228	300	474	68	72	101	39	7	*285	+7

* This total includes 69 "other diseases" not included in the table.

2
"
"
+ "

Scarlet Fever

Admissions, 1948 ...	52	Discharges ...	51
Remaining 1/1/48 ...	2	Remaining 31/12/48	3
Total		Total	
54		54	

Discharged as Scarlet Fever 50 Tonsillitis and Septic Rash 1

Complications

Otitis Media	...	...	...	...	4
Septic Thumb	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1
Mumps	...	...	...	...	1
Anæmia	...	...	...	...	1
Otitis Media and Adenitis	...	...	...	...	1
Nasal Infection c̄ Bilateral Adenitis	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	1
Serum Rash	...	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis. The sub-joined table shows the number of notifications and deaths due to tuberculosis since 1938.

It will be seen that the notification of pulmonary tuberculosis per 1,000 population shows no material alteration since 1939 ; of course, the figures of population are estimates and, therefore, too much emphasis must not be placed on rates per 1,000 population.

Year	No. of cases notified		No. of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population		Population
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	
1928-37 Average	117	22	76	15	0.76	0.15	
1938	91	31	58	6	0.58	0.05	100,400
1939	95	40	52	12	0.50	0.10	100,600
1940	117	30	74	18	0.66	0.16	114,600
1941	137	50	68	16	0.54	0.13	124,800
1942	186	40	60	10	0.51	0.08	117,800
1943	185	30	57	13	0.51	0.11	113,000
1944	135	29	55	14	0.49	0.13	111,340
1945	119	16	60	12	0.55	0.11	108,830
1946	152	25	73	11	0.65	0.09	111,340
1947	168	27	70	6	0.62	0.05	112,960
1948	132	24	50	12	0.43	0.10	114,500

Dr. Tattersall has been good enough to supply me with certain information which reveals that there is a distinct increase of the number of patients referred to the Clinic, as is shown by the following table :—

CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Year	New Patients	Fluoroscopy	Re-attendances	Total
1938	369	—	3,061	3,430
1945	723	—	5,100	5,823
1946	875	293	5,386	6,554
1947	903	1,430	5,204	7,537
1948	976	1,859	6,032	8,867

The number of cases remaining under supervision on the Dispensary Register on 31/12/48 is indicated in the following table :—

	-1940	1941-45	1946	1947	1948	Total
Primary Tb. ...	—	6	4	9	16	35
Pulmonary Tb.						
Effusions ...	—	15	13	13	14	55
Sputum Negative	5	57	28	64	169	323
Sputum Positive	48	107	33	61	73	322
Arrested ...	18	32	—	2	35	87
Non-Pulmonary ...	11	19	8	24	14	76
Total Cases ...	82	236	86	173	321	898
Sputum Converts ...	23	67	19	40	13	162
Collapse therapy	?	75	19	43	21	158

The number of cases discharged from the register during 1948 was as follows :—

Recovered ...	123	Lost sight of ...	38
Dead ...	61	Transferred ...	32

It is possible that some of the patients in the categories “lost sight of” and “transferred” may have recovered from the disease during the year, but the figures show that 156 new cases were added to the register in 1948, whilst only 123 were removed from it on the grounds that they had recovered.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Patients with venereal disease in Reading are treated at the clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, which also serves a large area of the surrounding countryside.

The following are details of patients from Reading who attended for the first time during 1948 :—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	36
Soft Chancre	...	...	...	...	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	35
Non-venereal conditions...	...	...	...	...	164
					235
					—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water. Mr. O. Keen, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, has been good enough to supply the following information :—

“ (i) The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been entirely satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

(ii) Bacteriological and chemical examinations are made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories of samples of water taken from the river and from the various pumping and filtration works at the following regular intervals :—

Fobney Pumping and Filtration Works—River water

- 1—Raw river water ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)
- 2—After filtration ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)
- 3—After filtration and
chlorination ... monthly (full bact.)
- ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Southcote Pumping and Filtration Works—River and Borehole water

- 1—After filtration and
chlorination ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)
- ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Pangbourne Pumping Station—Borehole water

- 1—After chlorination ... monthly (full bact. and chemical)
- ditto ... weekly (partial bact.)

Bath Road Reservoir

- 1—Water from outlet main weekly (full bacteriological)

The following tabulation shows the number of samples examined during the year under review, the source, stage of treatment and type of examination :—

Source	Type of Water	Number of samples taken		
		Full Bact.	Partial Bact.	Chemical
Fobney Works ...	Raw river water ...	12	—	12
" " ...	Final filtered : unchlorinated	12	—	12
" " ...	" " chlorinated	12	40	—
Southcote Works	" " "	12	40	12
Pangbourne Works	Final chlorinated: No. 1 B.H.	10	33	10
" "	" " No. 2 B.H.	5	19	5
" "	Unchlorinated No. 2 B.H.	2	—	—
" "	Discharge from new headings	1	—	1
Bath Road Reservoir	Final filtered, chlorinated, bulked ...	52	—	—
	Totals ...	118	132	52

Owing to the sinking of a new borehole and pilot well and the provision of headings, the existing boreholes at Pangbourne were not used for supply purposes during part of the year; consequently a less number of examinations were made than in a year of normal operation.

Results of Examinations of Water. The condition of the raw river water fluctuates within wide limits during the course of a year; being related to rainfall, temperature, and the seasonal growth of weed, etc.

The following results are averages of reports submitted during the year 1948 :—

Raw River Kennet water.

Chemical Results in Parts per million

Appearance	Slight opalescence with a flocculent deposit of mineral and organic debris. Many diatoms and a few protozoa present.			
Colour (Hazen)	Yellow-Brown. Filtered :	Yellow Brown	14	
Reaction pH	On the alkaline side of neutrality			8.0
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	428
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	...	...	15
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	233
	Carbonate (temporary)	...	...	196
	Non-carbonate (permanent)	...	...	37
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	2.3
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.081

Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.145
Metals—Iron (other metals absent)	...	...	...	...	0.18
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	11
Odour—Very faint Earthy					
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	1.67
Total Solids, Dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	288
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	196
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	less than 0.01
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	2.17
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Nil

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on	1 day at 37°C.	...	4,300
Agar per cc. or ml. in	2 days at 37°C.	...	6,300
	3 days at 20°C.	...	18,000
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in 0.3 ml.		
	Absent from 0.03 ml.		
Bact. coli. Type I	Present in 1.2 ml.		
	Absent from 0.12 ml.		
Probable number of bact. coli per 100 ml.			4,300

A typical descriptive summary was as follows :—‘ This sample has faint opalescence and slight deposit, the turbidity being perceptible but not marked. The water is practically neutral in reaction, hard in character but not unduly so, contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution and it is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. It shows only a trace of colour and is of satisfactory organic quality for this raw supply. The bacterial impurity is indicative of pollution by matters of sewage or manurial origin but the degree of pollution is not excessive. No exceptional difficulty would be anticipated in the treatment of the water for the production of public supply.’

Treated Water. A representative report and description of the same river water *after* final filtration and chlorination was as follows :—

Chemical Results in Parts per million

Appearance	Bright with very few particles of mineral debris				
Colour (Hazen)	Less than	...	...	...	10
Reaction pH	Neutral	...	...	...	7.5
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	...	400
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	15
Hardness—Total	...	...	...	...	225
Carbonate (temporary)	...	...	...	...	185
Non-carbonate (permanent)	...	...	...	...	40
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	...	1.6
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.038
Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	Less than	...	...	...	5
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	9
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	...	...	...	...	270
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	185
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	0.50
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per cc. or ml. in	1 day at 37°C.	...	4
	2 days at 37°C.	...	9
	3 days at 20°C.	...	1
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in	...	—
	Absent from	... 100 ml.	
Bact. coli.	Present in	...	—
	Absent from	... 100 ml.	

‘ This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so, and it contains no excess of mineral constituents in solution. It is free from noticeable colour, of very satisfactory organic quality and of a high standard of bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.’

Deep Borehole Water. The water from Pangbourne boreholes receives no treatment apart from chlorination : a typical report and description of this water, after chlorination, was as follows :—

Chemical Results in Parts per million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright	
Colour (Hazen)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	...	...	7.2
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.		...	...	...	...	510
Chlorine in Chlorides		...	...	...	...	15
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	...	285
Carbonate (Temporary)			...	...	...	255
Non-carbonate (Permanent)			...	...	...	30
Nitrogen in Nitrates		...	...	...	...	4.6
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.012
Albuminoid Ammonia		...	...	...	...	0.000
Metals—Iron, Less than	...	...	...	...	...	0.03
(Other metals absent)						
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Free Carbon Dioxide		...	...	...	...	23
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.		...	...	...	...	340
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	...	255
Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	...	...	...	...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.		...	...	...	...	0.10
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of Colonies developing on	1 day at 37°C.	...	Nil
Agar per cc. or ml. in	2 days at 37°C.	...	Nil
	3 days at 20°C.	...	Nil
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present in ...	...	—
	Absent from	100 ml.	
Bact. coli	Present in ...	...	—
	Absent from	100 ml.	

‘ This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an abnormal or excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity.

These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.’

(iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are required or taken in this respect.

(iv) During the year under review there were no instances of abnormal contamination or pollution of the sources from which water is abstracted, and no extraordinary precautionary or remedial measures were necessary apart from the usual routine of filtration, chlorination, tests for residual chlorine, and periodical analyses.

(v) The estimated total population supplied from the Corporation's mains in the whole area of supply was 121,990, and the total quantity of water supplied for all purposes during the year was 1,795,090,000 gallons. The approximate number of dwelling houses together with other premises having domestic occupation, supplied from the Corporation's mains, was 31,900 at 31st March, 1948. Of this number 31,812 were supplied direct and the remaining 88 supplied by means of standpipes."

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. W. E. Bond, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

"The year under review has been one of difficulty, staff changes have considerably disorganised the work of the sanitary inspectors' section.

The survey of food premises other than those required to be registered by the Food & Drugs Act, was commenced, but progress has not been so rapid as was anticipated.

Additional work at the abattoirs, due to new regulations regarding the method of meat inspection, takes up considerably more time.

If the standard of hygiene in food premises is to be raised and maintained, and other equally important duties are to be efficiently carried out, consideration must be given to the increase and reorganisation of the establishment and accommodation.

During the year the sanitary inspectors made 9,914 inspections, visits and interviews under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

1,035 complaints were received as compared with 1,313 during the previous year.

An analysis of the complaints received is given in the table below :—

Defective houses	198
Defective roofs and chimneys	101
Defective gutters, stackpipes and vents	34
Defective windows	11
Damp walls	34
Defective floors	32
Defective ceilings	35
Defective sinks and waste-pipes	36
Defective coppers	19
Defective cooking ranges	28
Defective sanitary accommodation	103
Choked or defective house drains and sewers	166
Defective cesspools	2
Accumulations of refuse	24
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	10
Smoke nuisances	4
Dirty tenants	20
Miscellaneous	40
No action	63
Not justified	38
Passed to Housing Manager's office	33
Passed to Education Department	1
Passed to Borough Surveyor's Department	3

Public Health Act, 1936

Nuisances. The number of informal notices served during the year for abating nuisances under the Public Health Act, was 85 on owners and 39 on occupiers. The number of notices complied with was 122, including 2 outstanding from 1947.

There were no statutory notices served, but one outstanding in 1947 was complied with.

Sewers and Drains. 166 complaints were received regarding choked sewers and drains ; 64 were cleared by owners and 102 by the Local Authority. In 17 cases it was found necessary to take up and relay the complete system, and in 34 cases it was necessary to take up and relay part of the drain.

The number of visits paid in respect to these complaints was 1,085.

Disinfestation (Verminous houses). No change has been made in the method of disinfestation. The use of D.D.T. has proved successful in all cases. It must be remembered, however, that no case of heavy infestation by bed bugs was found during the year.

There has been no sign of reinfestation in the premises treated during the past year, and no complaints have been received in respect of premises that were treated in 1947.

The practice of treating Council houses prior to their occupation and the disinfestation of houses and furniture of tenants before removal to the Council houses has now been permanently adopted.

No. of complaints received				No. of houses disinfested	No. of rooms disinfested
Council houses	...	...	126	127	302
Private houses	...	...	232	184	294
Totals	...	...	358	311	596

Number of Inspection prior to disinfestation	...	174
Number of Inspection including disinfestation	...	358
Number of re-inspection	... ..	71
	Total	603

The Steam Fly and Cockroach. Disinfestation of premises for steam flies and cockroaches presents some little difficulty still. During the year, 5 bakehouses and kitchens have been dealt with, in 3 instances with success, and 2 are still under treatment.

Smoke Abatement. During the year four complaints were received regarding nuisances from smoke. Two of these were in respect of two brick kilns, four observations were made and as there appears to be no alternative method of firing the kilns, the nuisances are likely to recur under unfavourable conditions. The firm who was concerned with both chimneys have taken all reasonable precautions and blame the poor class of fuel with which they are now supplied. Four observations were made of two other chimneys and in one instance the firm was warned, and in the other structural alterations were undertaken at the suggestion of the technical adviser of the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

Offensive Trades. There were four businesses in this category on the register at the end of the year. 22 special visits were paid to these premises, all of which are properly conducted and kept in a satisfactory condition.

Notices to cleanse and limewash are given verbally as and when required.

There have been no complaints during the year and every co-operation has been received from the traders concerned.

Infectious Disease. 307 inspections of premises following notifications of infectious disease were made during the year, and contacts were advised in home nursed cases.

Cleansing and redecoration were ordered where conditions warranted it.

Common Lodging Houses. There are three common lodging houses in the borough. The registered accommodation for these houses is for 122 men and 2 married couples. There is no accommodation for single women.

The premises are very old and leave much to be desired in structure and arrangement. They are kept satisfactorily and 137 visits were made during the year.

No contraventions of the bye-laws were noted, and no complaints were received. Night supervision is carried out under the direction of the police.

Canal Boats. A number of visits were paid during the year to the wharves on the rivers Thames and Kennet. Five boats were inspected but were found not to be used as dwellings.

Movable Dwellings. There are 16 licensed sites situated in the East, West and North boundaries of the borough on which are stationed 31 movable dwellings. The licences are usually issued for a period of six months, subject to the approval of the Town Planning Committee. Water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse collection are available for all the dwellings.

Several enquiries to station movable dwellings within the borough have been received during the year but they have not been encouraged.

573 visits were paid to the sites and dwellings also to other caravans visiting the borough with amusement fairs.

No cases of infectious disease were notified and no complaints were received during the year.

Licensed Premises. During the year a survey was made of all the licensed premises in the area. A record was made of the sufficiency of the sanitary accommodation, lighting and ventilation and washing-up facilities available in the bars.

The result of this survey revealed that many of the premises were not satisfactory in regard to sanitary accommodation and the necessary action will be taken to improve these conditions in the near future.

It was noted that many of the licensed premises were without hot and cold running water and properly trapped sinks in the bars. This is a matter which needs urgent attention.

In some cases precautions were being taken to sterilize the glasses in use, but this procedure was not the general practice, and pressure must be brought to bear upon the tenants of these premises to adopt up-to-date methods of cleansing bar utensils and glasses.

Total number of licensed premises inspected	...	...	...	...	156
Total number of visits paid	...	...	...	...	216
Total number of premises found to be unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	99

Summary of defects found :—

Number without sufficient W.C. accommodation	...	male, 33 ; female, 9	
Number with sufficient but unsatisfactory W.C. accommodation	male, 7; female, 6		
Number without urinal accommodation	1		
Number with unsatisfactory urinal accommodation	...	...	50
Number without sufficient lighting and ventilation	...	...	3
Number without hot water in bar	...	39	
Number without hot or cold water in bar	25		
Number without sinks	...	...	20
Number with sinks but without properly trapped waste pipes	...	...	12
No. without cover for snacks	...	...	1
Number with dampness in bars and cellars	3		
Number with defective floors of smoke room and public bar	...	...	1

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. There are 580 factories recorded in the registers kept for this purpose. This is an increase of 17 over the previous year. 747 visits were paid by the sanitary inspectors and 35 notices were served including 20 complaints by the factory inspector. 33 notices were complied with including 3 outstanding from 1947.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories without mechanical power ...	137	113	4	—
Factories with mechanical power ...	443	634	31	—
Total	580	747	35	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness Unreasonable temperature ...	17	16	—	2	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
Insufficient ...	2	2	—	2	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	6	4	—	6	—
Not separate for sexes ...	9	7	—	9	—
	1	1	—	1	—
Total	35	30	—	20	—

Outworkers. In accordance with the provisions of the Act 7 outworkers' returns were received twice yearly. 57 visits were paid to ascertain the condition of the premises.

Nature :—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)						
Lists received twice a year from employers ...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of Outworkers Contractors Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lists received once a year ...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Outworkers Contractors Workmen	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	...	...	—
Notices served ...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Outwork in infected premises	...	...	...	...	...	—

Laundries. 27 visits were paid to 6 laundries. One notice to repair sanitary accommodation was complied with.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Inspection and Supervision of Food. The Transfer of Functions Order 1948 came into operation in March 1948. The Order outlines changes in the administration of the Food & Drugs Act consequent upon the establishment of the Ministry of Food upon a permanent basis.

The changes are ministerial and do not affect the duties of the Local Authority. Under the new arrangement fresh legislation relating to food standards and the control of premises where food is prepared may be expected in the near future.

The duties in connection with food inspection are carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors. They include the inspection of meat and fish and the various premises where food is prepared and stored for human consumption. It can be recorded that there is an increasing interest being displayed by employers and employees in matters of food hygiene.

Notices to cleanse and redecorate were served in 12 instances and all these were complied with.

5 works of reconditioning, altering or improving were carried out. A summary of the visits paid to premises is given in the table below :—

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	249
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	395
Food Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	106
Markets and Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Restaurants and Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	293
Knacker's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
Total							1,798

Knackers' Yards. Under the Knackers' Yard Order 1948, occupiers of knackers' yards must hold a licence granted by the Ministry of Food in addition to that of the Local Authority under the Foods and Drugs Act, and must keep records of animals received and the manner of their disposal.

There is one knacker's yard licensed by the Local Authority and is situated in an outer part of the borough, 48 visits were paid to the premises. No complaints were received during the year and no nuisance was found.

According to the register kept by the occupier, 241 animals including 50 horses were slaughtered during the year. The meat of all slaughtered animals is stained before leaving the premises.

Milk and Dairies Orders

Dairies. During the year 171 inspections were paid to dairy premises. All notices to cleanse and limewash were complied with.

No. of Dairies on the Register at the end of 1947...	...	...	201
New Applications for Registrations	...	...	—
Dairies removed from the Register during the year	...	...	—
No. of Dairies on the Register at the end of 1948	...	...	201

Cowsheds. Number of cowsheds on the register, 11. This is a reduction of 2 on the previous year. Number of cows specified on the register, 478.

110 visits were made. 11 notices to cleanse and limewash were complied with.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936-46

The examination of milk samples taken under the Regulations and the Biological Testing of Milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli was for many years carried out by the National Institute for Research in Dairying at Shinfield. In July this year the Institute terminated this arrangement owing to the lack of staff and accommodation due to the expansion of their research work.

Arrangements were therefore made with the Public Health Laboratories to undertake these examinations, but owing to the shortage of equipment there was a period when samples could not be examined and at present only a limited number can be dealt with. Temporary arrangements have been made with the public analyst to deal with the phosphatase test.

The following table sets out the number and nature of licences issued by the local authority.

Nature of Licence	T.T. (Cert.) Milk	Tuberculin Tested Milk	T.T. (Past.) Milk	Accred-ited Milk	Pasteurised Milk	Heat Treated
Producers licence only	—	3	—	4	—	—
Producer-Retailer Vendors ...	1	1	—	—	6	—
Retail Vendors only	1	24	4	—	7	—
Supplementary Retail Vendors	1	—	—	2	—	—

277 visits were paid to the farms and dairies where designated milk is produced or treated for the purpose of taking samples and the inspection of plant.

The general standard of hygiene in these dairies is being well maintained despite the difficulty of obtaining suitable labour.

Analysis of samples taken during the year :—

Class of Milk	No. of Samples tested	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
“ Pasteurised ”	120	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	116 119	4 1
“ Heat Treated ”	18	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	17 18	1 —
“ Tuberculin Tested ” ... (“ Pasteurised ”)	30	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	29 30	1 —
“ Tuberculin Tested ” ... “ Tuberculin Tested ” (“ Certified ”)	123 28	Methylene Blue Coliform	142 121	9 30
“ Accredited ”	63	Methylene Blue Coliform	57 41	6 22

It will be seen from the analysis of the samples taken during the year, that there is room for considerable improvement in the standard of production of raw milk, and an overwhelming case in favour of the compulsory heat treatment of all milk supplies.

Tuberculous Milk. 36 samples of milk were taken during the year of which five were found upon examination to contain living tubercle bacilli.

In four cases the usual procedure was adopted and an examination of the herds concerned revealed 6 animals to be affected and they were eventually slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order. The result of the fifth case has not yet been received.

All the milk from these affected herds was treated by the pasteurising process until they were proved free from infection.

Number of Samples taken from Milk produced in the Borough ...	3
Number of Samples taken from Milk produced outside the Area and sold in the Borough in its raw state	23
Number of Samples taken from Milk produced outside the Area and retailed after " Heat Treatment "	10

School Milk Supplies. Samples of the milk supplied to schools are taken frequently and submitted for bacteriological examination, including the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation. The quantity supplied is as follows :—

Grade supplied	Quantity in gallons daily
" Pasteurised "	478

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 and 1948. These regulations came into force in May 1947, when all traders were informed by circular of the requirements, many visits were then paid by the inspectors to advise manufacturers and traders on all matters concerning the alterations and reconstruction of their premises, and at the same time advice on matters of hygiene was given. The results of the preliminary work of last year will be seen in the improvement in the samples taken.

There are 247 premises registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, this is an over-all increase of 44, of these 178 are registered for storage and sale only, and the remaining 69 are registered for manufacture in addition to storage and sale. This decrease is accounted for by reason of six premises being found to be incapable of conversion so as to comply with the requirements.

During the year in nine instances, premises were altered or reconstructed so that a separate room could be used for manufacturing purposes.

547 visits were paid to ice cream premises, and 205 samples were taken, the results of which are given in the table below :—

	Results, 1947	Percentage of Total	Results, 1948	Percentage of Total
Grade 1	2	3.33	94	45.85
„ 2	13	21.67	29	14.15
„ 3	18	30.00	43	20.98
„ 4	27	45.00	39	19.02
Totals	60		205	

Bakehouses. There are 31 factory bakehouses and 5 non-factory bakehouses on the register. 217 visits were paid to these premises. 13 notices were served to cleanse and limewash, all of which were complied with.

Condemned Foodstuffs. The quantity of food which was examined and found unfit for human consumption is given in the table. Every effort was made to salvage that which could be used for animal food, and the remainder was destroyed.

Meat and Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,172 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,783 „
Dates, Prunes, Oranges, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,378 „
Potatoes, Cabbages, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	512 „
Eggs	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,613
Indian Cashew Nuts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,736 lbs.
Canned Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,206
Soup Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	78 tons
Sago, Rusks, Sugar, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,600 lbs.
Biscuit Dough and Yeast	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,333 „
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,243 „

Meat Inspection. The Public Abattoirs and one slaughterhouse are used by the Ministry of Food for the slaughter of animals. There is one other slaughterhouse operating under a licence for the slaughter and curing of pigs for bacon.

The borough is a centre of distribution for the adjacent districts.

There are 4 private slaughterhouses which are licensed but owing to the restrictions of slaughtering, are not used.

During the year the Ministry of Food issued a supplementary Memorandum modifying the method of meat inspection recommended in Memo. 62 Foods and giving detailed instructions for the inspection of sheep and lambs showing evidence of infection with caseous lymphadenitis. Two such cases have been found slightly affected and dealt with in accordance with the instructions.

The Ministry of Food also issued a Circular M.F. 5/48 drawing attention to cases of cysticercus bovis having occurred in various parts of the country, and stressing the importance of inspection of all beef carcasses, giving details of the method to be adopted in order to detect cysticerci. So far there have been no carcasses found to be affected.

A considerable amount of extra time is taken up in carrying out the instructions contained in these two circulars.

By reason of the conditions prevailing at the abattoirs and the fact that nearly all animals arrive there by rail or road transport, no ante-mortem inspection is made.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	3,687	1,631	4,297	9,615	10,235
No. inspected	3,687	1,631	4,297	9,615	10,235
<i>All Carcases except Tuberculosis—</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	15	45	12	8	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	356	574	47	681	246
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	10.06	37.95	1.37	7.17	2.51
Tuberculosis Only— Whole carcasses condemned ...	20	56	—	—	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	424	757	—	—	386
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tubercu- losis	12.04	49.85	—	—	3.89

Adulteration of Food and Drugs. Adulteration of food, including milk, is determined by sampling and chemical analysis, the procedure is set out in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year, 299 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis and are set out in the following table. Eight of the samples of milk found below standard were proved genuine but of poor quality, due to the time of the year and changes in feeding. In one case involving five samples in which was found added water due to a defect in the cooling plant. After hearing his explanation, the producer was warned by the Health Committee.

Two samples of emulsified fat which was used as a greasing compound, were reported to contain formaldehyde. The matter was taken up with the distributors and the product was withdrawn from sale.

In the case of the samples of gelatine which were of poor quality, the wholesaler was notified and agreed to withdraw the stock from sale.

There were no police court proceedings taken during the year.

Articles	Number of samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
New milk	261	245	16
Emulsified Fat	1	—	1
Sausages and Sausage Meat	12	7	5
Ice Cream	4	4	—
Baking Powder	1	1	—
Salad Dressing	1	—	1
Egg Powder (dried) ...	1	1	—
Gelatine	2	—	2
Vinegar	7	7	—
Greasing Compound (for baking tins)	1	1	—
Butter	3	3	—
Margarine	3	3	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Totals	299	274	25

Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10, Heating, Sanitary and Washing Accommodation). During the year 10 complaints relating to sanitary accommodation were received from the shops inspector. 31 visits were paid to the premises complained of. One notice was served respecting repairs to sanitary accom-

modation and was complied with. Six exemptions were granted by reason of restricted accommodation affecting the premises, and no action was taken in three instances where the sanitary accommodation was considered to be suitable and sufficient.

Housing Act, 1936. The position with regard to house repairs has not become easier, though materials were more plentiful the labour problem was difficult, and the cost of even minor repairs being almost prohibitive, especially where the small property owner is concerned.

Only the most essential repairs have been asked for and the response by owners has on the whole been satisfactory.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	914
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	3,977
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ..	487
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	487
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of para. 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	487

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officer (including 87 outstanding from 1947) ...	485
--	--	---	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	38
(2)		Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a)	By owners	*45
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	†21
	(c)	Undertakings not to let until made fit ...	‡ 5

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2)		Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a)	By owners	—
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)		Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)		Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit | — |

* Includes 29 outstanding in 1947.

† Includes 12 outstanding in 1947.

‡ Includes 2 voluntarily closed and 1 voluntarily demolished.

Rodent Control The work of the Rodent Control has proceeded on much the same lines as in previous years. Absence of staff due to illness made it impracticable to carry out block control.

As from 31st March, 1948, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries issued a Circular N.S. 19 which stated that all grants and conditions in force on that date were to be terminated and superseded by a consolidated grant of 50 per cent of approved net expenditure excluding agricultural land during the year 1948. The grant was dependent upon compliance with the following conditions :—

That the Local Authority maintains and administers an organisation of adequate rodent control.

Treats sewers, refuse dumps, refuse destructors and other public service properties.

Takes effective action for the control of rats and mice in all other properties.

Six hundred and one complaints were received in 1948, and investigated from private and business premises. This is an increase on the previous year, but in most cases the complaints were found to relate to the presence of only one or two rats.

Number of visits paid	...	...	2,615
Number of pre-baits laid	...	...	2,092
Number of poison baits laid	...	...	1,672
Number of rats picked up	...	...	1,046
Number of premises cleared	...	...	496
Number of premises re-infested and cleared	...	...	49
Number of premises tested and found clear	...	...	135
Number of re-inspections	...	...	1,998

Treatment of Sewers. An initial treatment of sewers was commenced in conjunction with the Borough Surveyor's Department who prepared plans of four sections of the sewers to be treated and provided personnel for easing and lifting man-hole covers.

The number of manholes treated is given in the table, but until the treatment is completed, it is not reasonable to estimate extent of the probable infestation.

Number of manholes tested and baited	341
Number of pre-baits laid	1,023
Number of poison baits laid	151
Number of poison baits taken	121

Treatment of other Local Authority Property—

Number of premises treated	35
Number of visits paid	158
Number of pre-baits	210
Number of poison baits	270
Number of rats picked up	151
Number of re-inspections	70

School Kitchens and Stores—

Number of premises treated	5
Number of visits paid	115
Number of poison baits	159
Number of mice picked up	67
(considerable numbers destroyed)	
Number of re-inspections	20

Treatment at Manor Farm Tip—

Number of visits	44
Number of pre-baits laid	1,465
Number of poison baits laid	506
Number of rats picked up	326

In addition to the destruction of rats and mice other vermin or pests were destroyed. The numbers and types of vermin destroyed are given below :—

- 79 wasps nests were dealt with and combs
successfully removed in 72 cases
- 2 badgers were destroyed
- 3 complaints of rabbits were successfully dealt with
- 4 complaints concerning grey squirrels were
dealt with and 5 were destroyed
- 9 complaints of moles were received and
advice on destruction was given

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the co-operation of the sanitary inspectors during the year”

Sewage Disposal. Mr. K. H. Thorpe, Borough Surveyor, has supplied the following information :—

Manor Farm Sewage Disposal Works. During the year ending December 1948, 1,448,800,000 gallons of sewage were treated at this works. The average daily flow was 3,960,000 gallons, an increase of 443,000 gallons per day on last year's average.

Chlorination. An average of 4 parts per million of free chlorine has been added throughout the year to the crude sewage to check septicity in the sedimentation tanks.

Sludge. 7,656,900 gallons of crude sludge were removed from the sedimentation tanks. The greater part of this was treated in the sludge digestion tanks, but some had to be pumped to the old sludge lagoons on Roundabouts field.

The whole of the sludge lifted from the sludge drying beds has been used for agricultural purposes.

Activated Sludge Plant. This plant has still continued to remove some 30 per cent of the total albumenoid nitrogen from the settled sewage prior to treatment by the bacterial filter beds.

Work on the renovation of two units of this plant was not commenced in 1948 owing to the non-delivery of new diffusers together with the necessary pipe work. Delivery will be made early in 1949, and the proposed improvements completed.

Caversham Sewage Disposal Works. The flow at this works is not recorded but it is estimated that the daily flow is from 500,000 to 600,000 gallons. The chemical analysis of the crude sewage shows that it is tending to become stronger.

Sewage Disposal Generally. The disposal works at Manor Farm and at Caversham are working considerably in excess of their designed capacity and the Council are now considering proposals for a new sewage disposal works which will serve the whole of the borough.

House Refuse Collection. The once weekly collection of refuse has continued throughout 1948. The vehicle situation continues to improve and the delivery of the six new vehicles will commence in June, 1949.

This service continues to be maintained by 14 house refuse collection vehicles and 51 employees, in comparison with the 1938 figures of 18 vehicles and 71 employees but a once weekly collection of house refuse aided by special collections of salvage is in operation compared with a twice weekly collection in 1938.

The following table shows the quantity of house refuse collected from premises within the borough with the total mileage of vehicles used in this collection :—

Quarter Ending	1948		1947	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March	6,458	18,658	6,957	18,963
30th June	5,348	19,725	5,124	17,486
30th September	3,942	17,424	3,603	15,999
31st December	6,809	19,427	5,459	17,702
Totals	22,557	75,234	21,143	70,150

House Refuse Disposal. The disposal of house refuse within the borough has been carried out for many years at the refuse disposal tip, Basingstoke Road, but the available space at this site will soon be absorbed and the question of an additional site or sites is now under consideration by the Highways Committee.

The Ministry of Health is of the opinion that where land is available controlled tipping is the most economical and advantageous method of disposal and it is hoped that a new controlled tip will be in use by the end of 1949.

Street Cleansing. The “beat” system of street cleansing by street orderlies continues to be the most satisfactory system of street sweeping in Reading. The collection of sweepings and litter is carried out by means of street orderly trucks which are visited by street cleansing freighters for the collection of the accumulated refuse and litter.

An improved type of employee has been engaged on this work and it has been possible to increase the frequency of cleansing in the outlying districts of the borough.

65 litter bins have recently been fixed at bus stops but the litter nuisance remains an acute problem and reflects upon the public of Reading.

The mild winter during the period under review has reduced the tonnage swept from the highways.

Comparative table of number of employees engaged in street cleansing :—

	1948	1947	1938
Men ...	54	51	19
Boys ...	3	4	55
Totals	57	55	74

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the borough and the mileage of the collection vehicles :—

Quarter Ending	1948		1947	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March	408	3,316	518	2,900
30th June	401	3,354	639	3,300
30th September	328	3,903	322	4,310
31st December	336	3,731	331	4,074
Totals	1,473	14,304	1,810	14,584

Street Gully Cleansing. All street gullies are now being emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles to a pre-war standard as indicated by the increased mileage travelled.

The cleansing of gullies in private streets has commenced but the initial digging out of filled-up gullies will occupy a considerable time and the mechanical cleansing of these gullies will gradually take place.

The following table shows the comparative tonnage removed during the years 1947-48 :—

Quarter Ending	1948		1947	
	Tons	Miles	Tons	Miles
31st March	460	2,605	363	1,850
30th June	302	2,822	465	2,722
30th September	331	3,049	259	2,950
31st December	286	2,740	463	2,788
Totals	1,379	11,216	1,550	10,310

Cesspool Emptying. All cesspools are emptied by a mechanical cesspool emptying vehicle upon receipt of instructions from the occupier or owner of premises within the borough."

CREMATION

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Reading Crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. During the year under review 444 cremations were carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

A certain amount of bacteriological work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, but unfortunately this laboratory is not yet able to give an adequate service.

NURSING HOMES

There are 9 homes registered with the local authority, providing a bed accommodation for 33 maternity patients and 72 others, a total of 105 beds. During the year steps were taken to improve the precaution in case of fire.

All homes were inspected.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939—Section 7

Number of persons who gave notice under section 7 during the year	...	5
Number of children concerned	...	5

All of these children were legally adopted during the year.

NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS ACT, 1948

Child minders registered	...	3
Number of children per session	...	25

No applications for registrations of premises as nurseries under the provisions of this Act were received.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

It was decided that Part III of this Act should be administered by the Health Committee, and this changeover took place on July 5th.

Owing to the necessity of preparation of schemes for the approval of the Ministry of Health and the rather lengthy procedure involved therein, there is very little to report during the year except a maintenance of the *status quo* under a different administration.

SECTION 21—PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR AGED AND INFIRM

The following gives a summary of the numbers of people for whom accommodation was provided under the above Section :—

		Battle Hospital	Woodlands	Other Institutions
Men	...	13	43	3
Women	...	42	36	2
Children	...	5	—	—
		—	—	—
	Total	60	79	5
		—	—	—

Total number of Residents under Part III :—

Men	...	...	...	...	59
Women	...	...	...	...	80
Children	...	...	...	...	5
					—
					144
					—

SECTION 29—WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS —BLIND PERSONS

The secretary of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind has supplied me with the following report :—

“ On 31st December, 1948, there were 214 blind people on

the register of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, 86 males and 128 females. The age groups were as follows :—

AGE GROUPS

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—
1 to 4 years ...	1	—	1
5 „ 15 „ ...	5	1	6
16 „ 20 „ ...	—	—	—
21 „ 39 „ ...	10	11	21
40 „ 49 „ ...	7	14	21
50 „ 64 „ ...	16	27	43
65 years and over	47	75	122
Totals ...	86	128	214

AGE AT WHICH BLINDNESS OCCURRED

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	11	10	21
1 to 4 years	1	3	4
5 „ 15 „ ...	4	3	7
16 „ 20 „ ...	4	1	5
21 „ 39 „ ...	11	17	28
40 „ 49 „ ...	4	12	16
50 „ 64 „ ...	24	34	58
65 years and over	26	46	72
Age unknown ...	1	2	3
Totals ...	86	128	214

During the year there were 14 deaths, 5 transfers out, 22 new cases and 6 transfers in.

Home Workers. There were 8 home workers throughout the year : 2 piano tuners, 2 machine knitters, 1 hand knitter, 1 chair caner, 1 boot repairer and 1 basket maker. The machine knitters make socks only for the shop at Minster Street, and the Association would be grateful for orders. The socks are well made and inexpensive.

Domiciliary Assistance. This passed away on July 5th, 1948, when the National Assistance Act came into effect. The blind people in need of financial help now draw National Assistance from the Post Office in place of domiciliary assistance from the local authority.

Pastime Classes and Domino Club. These have met three times weekly with a keen and regular attendance. At the pastime classes rug making, knitting, raffia work, stool seating, string bag

making, etc., are taught. Some of the work produced is of a quite high standard, and we are able to sell it in the shop.

Monthly Socials. Entertainments and games are enjoyed at the social evenings, held each month at the Katesgrove School hall. The members of Toc H and Round Table have transported the blind to and from these socials, and this help has been much appreciated. A course of *Lectures* on 'International Relations' was held at the Central Library during the late autumn, and was attended by about 20 blind people. The speaker was Mrs. Taylor, who is attached to the B.B.C.

Summer Outing. Four coaches of blind people, staff and guides went to Littlehampton for the day on August 7th. The day was fine, though breezy, and the time passed happily. Several of the blind bathed in spite of the rough sea. The coaches returned to Reading soon after 10 p.m.

Annual Flag Day, May 8th. Geranium Day, organised by the National Institute for the Blind, with the assistance of the Association, brought in £480, a portion of which was later paid to the Association.

Christmas Party. In December the annual party was held in the Jacobean Restaurant through the kindness of Messrs. McIlroy, and was well attended, in spite of the very foggy weather. Alderman Kersley, the Mayor, was present and gave a short address to the 140 people present. A concert was provided by the Sainsbury Singers.

Wireless. During the year 8 new wireless sets were received (five battery and three electric) from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, and were all allocated to blind people in need of sets. As can be well understood, the wireless is one of the greatest gifts to blind people ; and the majority of them are keen and intelligent listeners.

Executive Committee. The Association's Executive Committee (Mr. W. E. C. McIlroy, chairman) met every month, arranging for payments of grants for special relief, instructing and advising the secretary on any particular problems brought to their notice. At the December meeting, 1948, Dr. Robson, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, presented to the committee the scheme for the provision of welfare services as prepared by the Reading Corporation, under Sections 29 and 30 of the National Assistance Act.

Winter Coal. Coal at the rate of 1 cwt. a week was given by the Association's Voluntary Funds to all blind people over 70.

Bus Passes, Cinema Passes. The Association is indebted to the Corporation for free bus passes for the blind people on all the Corporation buses ; and to cinema managers who have allowed the blind to attend their cinemas, with a guide, free of charge.

Home for the Blind. Throughout the year the Association received gifts of money towards the 'Home.' We regret to say that it has not been possible as yet to find a suitable house."

Report of the Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon. Mr. G. T. Willoughby Cashell, F.R.C.S., has given the following report in connection with the work he has undertaken during the year :—

"Twenty-four cases were examined for admission to the blind register in 1948 of whom 22 were found to be blind within the meaning of the Act and 2 were not.

	Blind	Not Blind	Total
Cataract ...	6	—	6
Glaucoma ...	6	—	6
Myopia	1	—	1
Retinal conditions	2	1	3
Congenital ..	—	1	1
Infective ..	4	—	4
Degenerative ..	3	—	3
	22	2	24

Four of the cases of cataract could be operated on and 1 had been operated on but required a needling.

One of the 6 cases of glaucoma sought advice too late.

The 1 case of myopia was suffering from cataract which could possibly be removed but with a doubtful prognosis owing to the high myopia.

The 1 case under the heading 'congenital conditions' was a child with partial optic atrophy for which no cause could be found. She was not blind but required special education.

Of the cases blind from infective conditions 1 was due to perforated corneal ulcers, 1 to gonorrhoeal ophthalmia, 1 to iritis which had been followed by cataract in one eye and glaucoma in the other and the fourth to iridocyclitis followed in one eye by cataract and in the other by secondary glaucoma and cataract. In the last case one eye had been unsuccessfully operated on and the patient was undergoing operation on the other eye.

Under the heading 'degenerative conditions' 2 cases were suffering from senile retinal degeneration and the third from a rare degenerative condition—xerophthalmia and pemphigus."

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1948

READING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Alderman H. V. Kersley, J.P.)

Aldermen

ARTHUR FRANK CLARK	JEREMIAH JOHN DWYER
ANNIE PHŒBE ELLEN CUSDEN, J.P.	THOMAS STEPHEN WILLIAM SMART

Councillors

EDWARD ALBERT BUSBY	ELEANOR LANGSTON
MARY KATHARINE LOGAN DAHNE	HUBERT SAMUEL LANGSTON
GEOFFREY SIMPSON FIELD, O.B.E., J.P. (<i>Chairman</i>)	FRANK HUMPHRYS LEWIS (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
REGINALD FFOLLIOTT HASLUCK, M.A., J.P.	CUTHBERT PARSONS
GEORGE WILLIAM HOLLEY	WILLIAM FREDERICK PETTIT
HAROLD DEREK JOSLING	FRANCIS TAYLOR
	(Rev.) SYDNEY HERBERT WING

Co-opted Members

The Right Rev. THE LORD BISHOP SUFFRAGAN OF READING	Sir F. M. STENTON, M.A.
Rev. Dr. J. P. MURPHY, D.D.	Prof. H. C. BARNARD, M.A.
Rev. A. J. TAYLOR	Mr. W. C. COSTIN, M.A.
Mr. E. F. ALLWOOD, B.Sc.	Mr. I. R. BROAD
Mr. L. V. BENDALL, B.Sc.	Miss J. ELLIOTT, M.A.
	Mr. W. J. SOUCH, B.Sc., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
READING,

September, 1949

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an abridged annual report on the work of the School Health Service.

The work of the School Health Service suffered during the year owing to shortage of staff. Ascertainment of defects in their early stages is one of the prime functions of the School Health Service ; this requires adequate staff and adequate facilities for ancillary investigation and treatment.

No special investigations were carried out during the year.

School Population

The following figures give the school population for the various age groups.

Between 14-15	13-14	12-13	11-12	10-11	9-10	8-9	7-8	6-7	5-6
1,474	1,514	1,532	1,658	1,562	1,505	1,495	1,481	1,552	1,666

Periodic Medical Inspections

The following tables give :—

- (a) The number of pupils examined in each age group.
- (b) The number of pupils requiring some form of treatment.
- (c) The number of defects requiring treatment.
- (d) The number of defects requiring to be kept under observation.
- (e) Classification of the general condition of pupils inspected during the year in the age groups (figures for years 1938 and 1944 to 1947 are also given so that some comparison can be made).

TABLE I

Entrants	...	...	...	1,307
Second age group	...	...	...	1,346
Third age group	...	...	...	1,250
				Total 3,903
Other periodic inspections	...	...	...	263
				Grand total 4,166

TABLE II

Pupils found to require Treatment

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table III (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants ...	7	165	172
Second age group ...	96	221	317
Third age group ...	70	152	222
Total (prescribed groups)	173	538	711
Other Periodic Inspections	22	59	81
Grand Total ...	195	597	792

TABLE III

**Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection
in the year ended 31st December, 1948**

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections	
	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
Skin	38	7
Eyes—(a) Vision	195	109
(b) Squint	36	16
(c) Other	17	7
Ears—(a) Hearing	8	7
(b) Otitis Media	18	6
(c) Other	12	5
Nose or Throat	114	103
Speech... ..	7	5
Cervical Glands	18	29
Heart and Circulation	7	17
Lungs	39	24
Developmental—(a) Hernia	7	6
(b) Other...	7	3
Orthopaedic—(a) Posture ...	96	37
(b) Flat Foot	91	17
(c) Other ...	52	17
Nervous system—(a) Epilepsy	—	—
(b) Other...	10	8
Psychological—		
(a) Development	3	6
(b) Stability ...	1	1
Other	184	95

Nutrition. Up to the present there are no standard criteria of the state of a child's nutrition and it was not possible to undertake any exhaustive investigation into the nutritional state of school children during the year. The following table summarises

the clinical impressions of the examining doctors and they must be treated therefore with a certain amount of reserve.

TABLE IV

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	1,307	298	22.8	993	75.9	16	1.2
Second Age Group ...	1,346	314	23.3	1,017	75.5	15	1.1
Third Age Group	1,250	228	18.2	1,006	80.5	16	1.2
Other Periodic Inspections	263	137	52.3	125	47.5	1	.38
Total ...	4,166	977	23.4	3,141	75.4	48	1.1

Minor Ailments Clinic. These clinics are held regularly at four centres in the town and the attendance at all has been good. Apart from the clinic at Caversham, each one is staffed by a school nurse and a clinic attendant. Caversham clinic, where the figures are relatively small in comparison with the others, is staffed by a school nurse only. All clinics are attended frequently by a school doctor. The fact that Reading has five school clinics situated in different areas of the town is most important as the children lose much less school time than if they had to attend for treatment at one central clinic.

The total number of defects treated and under treatment during the year (excluding uncleanliness) was 5,236, and the total number of attendances at the various clinics was 42,627. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 3,532 and 35,367.

The following figures show the attendances at the various clinics :—

Queen's Road clinic	...	...	6,530
Whitley Clinic	...	...	12,145
Grovelands clinic	...	...	10,026
Battle clinic	...	...	9,751
Caversham	...	...	4,175

Specialist Clinics. Unfortunately there are relatively few specialist clinics attached to the School Health Service and it is not possible to give accurate figures of the children who were offered and accepted certain special forms of treatment. For the same reason I feel that the number of handicapped children is probably not fully ascertained.

The following remarks are of interest in regard to certain clinics.

Special Therapy clinic. 119 children attended the speech clinic once or twice weekly during 1948.

Of this number 43 were discharged, cured or improved, and 8 were discharged for a probation period to be recalled later.

8 children left the district or changed to private schools before treatment had been completed. 4 children had to be taken off the register for non-attendance.

The remaining 56 continued into 1949.

There were 30 cases of stammering, 7 of cleft palate, 9 of defects of voice or resonance, 3 of cérébral palsy, 3 of mutism, and 69 had articulatory defects of various kinds.

Most of the children attended for treatment at the School Clinic, Queen's Road, but clinics were also held twice weekly at Battle, and once a week at Grovelands, Whitley and Whitley Special School.

One morning a week has been reserved for school and home visits and for interviewing and giving advice and reassurance when necessary.

Child Guidance Clinic. The following figures relate to Reading children who attended the Reading and Berkshire Child Guidance Clinic :—

Number of cases brought forward				
from previous year ...	...	...	...	76
Number of new cases referred	...	...	...	168
Total number of cases seen for con-	...	...	...	...
sultation and treatment	...	...	...	235
Number of cases closed	...	...	...	120
After consultation and advice only	...	...	...	69
Number of cases treated and closed—				
Adjusted	...	...	...	16
Improved	...	...	...	14
No change	...	...	...	8
Prematurely closed	...	...	...	13
Number of attendances—				
For consultation only	...	...	...	217
Intelligence test only	...	...	...	5
Treatment interviews only, inclu-	...	...	...	...
ding remedial coaching	...	...	...	1,150

Refraction Clinic. 566 children attended this clinic and were examined for errors of refraction and glasses were prescribed for 507 of them. 109 children attended for other defects of the eye.

School Dental Service. I am indebted to Mr. J. Campbell, L.D.S., for the following report :—

“ During the year, approximately 69% of the children on the school roll were inspected and of these, 63% were found to require treatment. Out of this number 79% accepted treatment. This is an increase on last year's rate of 64%.

The number of specials or casuals continues to be high but this will persist until the number of dental officers is sufficient to inspect all school children at least once a year and treat all found to require attention.

It was intended to extend the scope of the dental service, but this could not be carried out owing to the failure in securing an adequate number of dental officers. We were handicapped further, by the resignation of Mr. Metcalf, who left the service on 31st October.

Despite the above difficulties, the services of a dental mechanic were secured and the supply of dentures and orthodontic appliances, by the school dental officers, was commenced, early in the year, with satisfactory results.

The number of pre-school children and expectant mothers requesting treatment has increased but it has been found necessary, owing to the lack of staff, to request the Welfare and Ante-natal clinics to refer urgent cases only. With an increase in the number of dental officers, this service could be greatly extended.

We wish to express our thanks to the anaesthetists and teachers for their continued interest and co-operation in the work of the dental department.

Report on Dental Inspection and Treatment, 1st January to 31st December, 1948. :—

1—Number of children inspected at school—

(a) Routine—

2 years	...	...	...	...	4
3 „	...	...	...	...	31
4 „	...	...	...	...	307
5 „	...	...	...	...	910
6 „	...	...	...	...	986
7 „	...	...	...	...	853
8 „	...	...	...	...	962
9 „	...	...	...	...	965
10 „	...	...	...	...	876
11 „	...	...	...	...	838
12 „	...	...	...	...	778
13 „	...	...	...	...	810
14 „	...	...	...	...	704
15 „	...	...	...	...	168
16 „	...	...	...	...	11

Total	...	...	...	...	9,203
Specials	...	...	...	...	1,343

Total Inspections ... 10,546

2—Number found to require treatment 6,647

3—Number actually treated ... 5,301

4—Number of attendances ... 11,143

5—Half-day's inspection ... 61

„ „ treatment ... 1,271

6—Fillings—Permanent ... 5,554

Temporary... ... 1,550

7,104

7—Extractions—Permanent ... 1,133

Deciduous ... 5,722

Orthodontic ... 323

7,178

8—Administration of General Anaesthetics ... 2,100

9—Other Operations—Permanent ... 1,958

Temporary ... 528

2,486

10—Cases for advice only ... 1,097

Twenty-two school children were supplied with artificial dentures, during the year. One boy, with absence of most of the permanent dentition, was fitted with full upper and lower dentures.

Twenty-eight children were fitted with orthodontic appliances, with extremely satisfactory results.

During the year, the following also attended for dental treatment.

	Number Treated	No. of Attendances	No. of Extractions	No. of Fillings	General Anaesthetics
Kennylands Camp ...	6	9	6	1	4
Christ's Hospital	10	23	4	17	—
Blue Coat School	6	16	1	14	1
Abbey School ...	7	28	3	12	1
St. Joseph's Convent ...	3	27	1	11	1
Occupation Centre	14	19	45	—	15
Remand Home ...	6	9	8	4	1
In-Patients— Battle Hospital	2	6	17	—	5

One patient, attending the Occupation Centre, had gross oral sepsis and was admitted to Battle Hospital. The dental officer extracted twenty-eight teeth under a general anaesthetic.

One child (cerebral palsy), another (M.D. and epilepsy) made two attendances. Three teeth were extracted and one general anaesthetic administered.”

Uncleanliness.

(a) *Lice*. Routine inspections are carried out by the school nurses and every endeavour is made to examine the heads of all children at least once per term, and those of nursery school children every week. Not many years ago a very high proportion of children, particularly girls, were found to be infected and it is a matter of some importance to note that the number so infected is each year becoming less and less.

Although formal notices are used on frequent offenders, use is made of an informal notice to first or accidental offenders.

The percentage of children found to be unclean was 6% approximately of the school population (1947—8.8%).

(b) At the Central School Clinic, 29 Queen's Road, there is a cleansing unit staffed by a whole time attendant, and amongst other conditions, it deals with cases of scabies occurring amongst school children. During last year 110 cases of scabies were treated as compared with 126 cases in 1947.

(c) The following figures summarise the work carried out :—

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons ...	52,255
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	926
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Acts, 1944)	53
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Acts, 1944)	15

RINGWORM

Ringworm of the Body. There were 116 cases of this disease in 1948 as compared with 160 cases in 1947. This is not a serious condition and responds quickly to ordinary medical treatment.

Ringworm of the Scalp. During the year 1948 the number of new cases was 53 as compared with 56 in 1947 and 150 in 1946. The figure of 53 for 1948 would have been considerably less but for an outbreak at one of the children's homes, when most of the boys were infected. All possible steps were taken to prevent the infection spreading outside the home, and these were successful.

A ringworm clinic is held once per week at the Central Clinic, Queen's Road, when use is made of Wood's diagnostic lamp, both for diagnosis and for estimation of any progress or otherwise, which may be made as a result of treatment.

All cases of ringworm of the scalp are excluded from school until certified cured by a school medical officer. If a local medical practitioner has a case of ringworm in a Reading school child which is considered to be cured, the case is sent to the school medical officer for confirmation by the use of Wood's lamp.

The school time lost through ringworm is very considerable and therefore if a case is not showing marked signs of improvement after a few weeks by the use of ordinary medical methods, arrangements are made for X-ray treatment, which has proved to be very successful.

Figures for 1948 are as follows :—

Children attending 1st January, 1948	24
New cases during period	53
Number discharged following cure by X-ray	31
Number discharged following cure by other means	26
Number of attendances made ...	821
Number of children X-rayed ...	31
Number of children still attending 31st December, 1948	20

SCHOOLS MEALS SERVICE

This very important service continued to flourish during the year and I am indebted to Miss P. E. Hall for the following information :—

“The number of meals served during the year 1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949, was 1,166,877, which was an increase of 155,837 over the previous year.

During the year, the first Ministry of Works Canteen was completed and opened at Norcot school on 1st October, 1948. A new kitchen has been completed under the borough architect's supervision at Caversham Junior, and this was opened on the 23rd February, 1949.

There are 6 more school canteens being erected by the Ministry of Works, which should be opened during the coming year.

During the season, good use was made of plums, several cwts. being bottled for use in the winter. Owing to a good supply of apples being available it was possible to provide some sort of fruit once a week during the year. The supply of fresh vegetables has been good this year, and it has not been necessary to use dried vegetables (peas, beans, etc.) frequently.”

Greenslade & Co. (Reading) Ltd.
King's Bridge :: Reading